

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2007

April 4, 2007
4:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, 2007. Carol Will took roll call; a quorum was noted.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chairperson Patty Myers, Vice Chairperson Angela McLean, Dr. Kirk Miller, Sharon Carroll, Storrs Bishop, and Jenny Tiskus. Staff present at the meeting included: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education; Megan Kerzman, Administrative Assistant, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council; and Carol Will, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Ex-officio Board member State Superintendent Linda McCulloch was represented by Bud Williams, OPI Deputy Superintendent. Visitors in attendance at the meeting included: Nancy Coopersmith, OPI Assistant Superintendent; and Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI Accreditation Division Administrator.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to adopt the consent agenda. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Items are presented in the order in which they appeared.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 1 ACCREDITATION STATUS RECOMMENDATIONS – REGULAR, ADVICE, DEFICIENCIES - Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson

This item was discussed in depth at the March 8-9, 2007 Board of Public Education meeting. The Superintendent of Public Instruction made the following recommendations to the Board of Public Education:

1. Improvement plans to correct accreditation deviations. This report provided follow-up information on the action taken by schools to meet the 2006 improvement plans. All schools receiving advice or deficiency accreditation determinations are required to submit an improvement plan describing planned corrective action.
2. Accreditation Status Recommendations. This report provided the 2006-2007 accreditation status determinations for all schools as recommended by State Superintendent Linda McCulloch.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the improvement plans to correct accreditation deviations for the 2005-2006 school year. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs Bishop moved to accept the Accreditation Status Recommendations as reported for the 2006-2007 school year. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 FINAL ACTION – AMENDMENT OF ARM 10.55.716 RELATING TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
(Rule noticed on February 8, 2007) - Steve Meloy

A comprehensive review of the Montana educator licensure rules was conducted in 2001 and 2002. The revised rules that were adopted by the Board of Public Education in 2002 contained an error. The waiver language in subsection (5) of 10.55.716 was intended to apply only to subsections (2), (3), and (4) of the rule. As written, subsection (5) also appears to apply to subsection (1). This was not the intent of the language developed by the review committee. The current language found in 10.55.716 regarding substitute teachers would allow trustees to waive this rule and theoretically let a non-licensed substitute to work in excess of 35 consecutive days. The final action of this item would correct the error in 10.55.716.

MOTION: Mr. Storrs moved to approve the proposed amendment of ARM 10.55.716 relating to substitute teachers. Dr. Kirk Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Item 3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Steve Meloy

Mr. Steve Meloy presented several House and Senate Bills that are currently being heard in this legislative session. Discussion ensued on some of the following bills:

- HB820 Biennial funding for certain executive branch agencies
- HB417 Revising school finance laws
- SB152 Education funding including early childhood development for 5 year olds
- SB56 Retirement costs to pay benefits for Federally funded school employees
- SB255 May choose new mill levy election date after legislative session

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Storrs Bishop seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.